

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 70 AND BRANCH 2525: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 1997*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70 and Branch 2525, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for their contributions to the labor movement and to the community as a whole.

The Labor Council's Community Service Award goes to the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70 and Branch 2525, primarily for their successful food drives. For the sixth consecutive year, with the cooperation of the Postal Service, they have organized the most successful food drives in San Diego County, collecting between 60 tons and 170 tons of food per year for needy working families.

With 2,500 members, including both active and retired letter carriers representing the majority of San Diego County, Branch 70 and Branch 2525 also contribute each year to the muscular dystrophy telethon. Last year, almost \$10,000 was collected locally—joining thousands of other members nationwide to contribute \$1.5 million to this worthy cause.

Branch 70 and Branch 2525 of the National Association of Letter Carriers are truly deserving of the award which they are receiving. I join in adding my sincere thanks to their members, and I take pleasure in highlighting their service for my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF  
LYMAN SPITZER

**HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 1997*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lyman Spitzer who passed away on March 31.

Lyman was one of the greatest astrophysicists that our world has ever seen and was the visionary for the Hubble space telescope. His passing came just days before the April 3 closing of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor [TFTR] at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory which he founded and headed for many years.

The Tokamak experiment was based on one of Dr. Spitzer's most exciting ideas—that it should be possible to recreate the energy producing process of the stars and harness it as an abundant source of energy on Earth. Despite the TFTR's major world record accomplishments of controlled fusion power during its history it was shut down 2 weeks ago.

The long-term interests and needs of our Nation, like the need to find environmentally safe and abundant sources of energy will not end with Lyman Spitzer, but the progress he made in this area will serve as a starting point for years to come.

As America faces a new century, looking for new answers to our Nation's problems, it is the vision and effort of people like Lyman Spitzer that will guide us to the solutions.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE ROBINSON

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 1997*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative CARRIE MEEK and others in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the day Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier.

As a ballplayer, Jackie Robinson set standards through both his superior athleticism and dignified grace. His unflinching commitment and determination to achieve set him apart from countless numbers of his peers.

However, a look beyond pure statistics—6 National Pennants and 6 seasons batting over .300, to name a couple—allows us to truly understand why Jackie Robinson is a hero to us all.

Jackie Robinson was an American pioneer. His perseverance when all the odds were against him is certainly an inspiration. This strength of will is reflective of the true spirit of America. His personal sacrifice reflects his commitment to our society. Robert Kennedy once said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." America was formed and is continually transformed by these "ripples of hope." Jackie Robinson was a "ripple of hope" for many Americans.

Yet, we must never forget the times in which Jackie Robinson lived. Discrimination and dehumanization were societal norms of the 1940's and 1950's. We must continually reflect on these ills, and admit past mistakes. This American conscience has always shaped our society for the better.

People have said that Jackie Robinson never took a step backwards. A lot has changed in the 50 years since he first put on that Brooklyn Dodger cap, yet too much has remained the same. We must continually move forward, ensuring all Americans their rights. The first step is to recognize those individuals who have strived to make an impact. Jackie Robinson's impact is still being felt today.

Therefore, I urge all the Members of this House, and all of my fellow Americans to remember Jackie Robinson as a great ballplayer, an inspirational American hero, and most important of all, an individual whose courage has touched the lives of millions.

GRAPHIC POSTCARD ACT OF 1997

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 1997*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge support for legislation that I have introduced, the Graphic Postcard Act of 1997. My bill, formulated after postcards showing a dismembered fetus were sent unso-

olicited to a number of towns in Connecticut, requires that material depicting violent or sexually explicit acts sent through the U.S. Postal Service be enclosed in an envelope emblazoned with a large print warning.

It is not unusual for parents to allow small children to open the mailbox and examine the contents. Bills, letters, and most advertisements pose no threats to young children. Sexually explicit material is already required to be covered when sent through the mail.

The right to free speech is one we all cherish. This legislation will not interfere with free speech; it does not prohibit graphic materials to be mailed, but instead places a simple requirement on their mailing in order to protect children. Like it or not, those responsible for these postcards have every legal right to use the U.S. mail to express their viewpoints. However, I believe that parents have an equal right to protect their children from graphic presentations of frightening or violent actions. Requiring an envelope and warning does not infringe on the sender's freedom of speech; it simply guarantees protection for our Nation's children.

This is rational action to stop potentially dangerous behavior. Hundreds of my constituents have called or written to let me know they were outraged by these postcards. The level of violence in our society has reached an unprecedented level and is eroding the values that have made us a strong society. We have a special obligation to protect young hands and eyes from unsuitable material, and this is step one.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Graphic Postcard Act of 1997.

H.R. —

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Graphic Postcard Act of 1997".

**SEC. 2. NONMAILABILITY OF CERTAIN MAIL MATTER.**

Section 1463 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first paragraph by inserting "(a)(1)" before "All matter";

(2) in the second paragraph by inserting "(2)" before "Whoever" and by striking "section" and inserting "subsection"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b)(1) All matter otherwise mailable by law, upon the envelope or outside cover or wrapper of which, and all postal cards upon which, any delineations, epithets, terms, photographs, drawings, visual depictions, or language of a violent or clinically graphic character, or unsuitable for persons under 18 years of age, are written or printed or otherwise impressed or apparent, are non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails nor delivered from any post office nor by any letter carrier, and shall be withdrawn from the mails under such regulations as the Postal Service shall prescribe, except as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any mail matter which is enclosed in an envelope or other outside cover or wrapper which—

"(A) bears on its face, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, such notice as the Postal Service shall by regulation require as to the nature of the contents of the mailing; and